

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 11271 071754Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3375

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - REQUEST TO AMEND AGREEMENT OF 29 JANUARY
1976

1. ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) FLORES REQUESTS EMBASSY AMEND NARCOTICS
AGREEMENT OF 29 JANUARY 1976, WHICH PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TOTALING
DOLS 1.6 MILLION, OF WHICH APPROXIMATELY DOLS 500,000 REMAIN
AVAILABLE FOR USE. AG SUGGESTS USING PART OF THESE FUNDS FOR
COMPUTER PROGRAM. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT AMENDMENT ALSO PERMIT
USE OF THESE FUNDS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS SUPPORT
OF NARCOTICS PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER DATED JUNE 29 FROM AG FLORES. FREE
TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

(A) "FOR SOME TIME REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE PER-
CEIVED THE NEED FOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT THE EFFORT AGAINST
THE PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS.

(B) "THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE SUPER-
FLUOUS TO ACQUIRE COMPUTERS SOLELY FOR THIS ORGANIZATION DUE TO
THE COMPUTER CAPACITY AVAILABLE THROUGH VARIOUS COMPUTER CENTERS
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 11271 071754Z

OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT IT IS
ONLY NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE TERMINALS FOR INSTALLATION IN MEXICO CITY
AND OTHER CITIES, PRINCIPALLY ALONG THE NORTHERN BORDER.

(C) "WE WOULD AGREE TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERN-
MENTS DATED 29 JANUARY 1976, PERMITTING THE USE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE
THROUGH THAT AGREEMENT FOR THIS PURPOSE."

3. COMMENT: THIS AGREEMENT PROVIDED TWO STOL SUPPORT AND ONE HIGH-SPEED AIRCRAFT PLUS FUNDS TO REIMBURSE GOM FOR LEASE OF LIGHT TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, AS NEEDED. THE THREE AIRCRAFT WERE DELIVERED, BUT THE GOM HAS NOT NEEDED THE FUNDS FOR AIRCRAFT LEASES. APPROXIMATELY DOLS 500,000 REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR USE. WELL OVER A YEAR AGO IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE UNUSED FUNDS WOULD BE HELD IN RESERVE TO SUPPORT COMPUTERIZATION OF THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM ON BOTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND THE INTERDICTION SIDES, BUT EMBASSY AND PREVIOUS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S STAFF REACHED STALEMAT WHEN FORMER

EXECUTIVE OFFICER GERTZ INSISTED THAT USG FUND AN ENTIRELY IN-HOUSE COMPUTER FACILITY. PRESENT PROPOSAL TO FUND COMPUTER TERMINALS WHICH WOULD OPERATE OFF OF EXISTING GOM COMPUTER FACILITIES IS WELCOME CHANGE.

4. IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS VARIOUS EMBASSY ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO DEVELOP REASONABLE APPROACH TO COMPUTERIZATION. WE HAVE AGREED THAT BEGINNING SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT (SPARE PARTS INVENTORY CONTROL, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SCHEDULING, ETC.) AND ON SUPPORT OF NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PROGRAM (NARCOTICS OFFENDER DATA BASE, VEHICLE AND AIRCRAFT LOOKOUTS, ETC.). AG'S STAFF HAS BEGUN PRELIMINARY WORK IN THESE AREAS, FOR WHICH SOFTWARE READILY AVAILABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 11271 071754Z

THROUGH COMMERCIAL OR DEA SOURCES.

5. WHILE AMENDING THIS AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR COMPUTER PROGRAM, WE RECOMMEND INCORPORATING LANGUAGE WHICH WILL PERMIT USE OF FUNDS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING, AS WELL AS FOR MISCELLANEOUS SUPPORT OF NARCOTICS PROGRAM. (THIS LATTER FUND, ESTABLISHED BY AGREEMENT DATED 22 NOVEMBER 1976, WAS DEPLETED BY EXTENSION OF RAMP AREA AT NEW HANGAR IN CULIACAN AND REMAINING BALANCE COULD SOON BE EXHAUSTED BY COST OF FALL POPPY ERADICATION PROGRAM AND MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR THE TWO MFJP AGENTS NOW HOSPITALIZED IN THE UNITED STATES.)

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO EXCHANGE LETTERS WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL AMENDING 29 JANUARY 1976 AGREEMENT TO INSERT THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH THREE: "THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL FURTHER PROVIDE, AS MUTUALLY AGREED UPON BY REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING, AND EITHER EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES OR FUNDING ON AN ADVANCE OR REIMBURSABLE BASIS FOR THE COMPUTERIZATION OF INFORMATION AND FOR THE PURCHASE OF MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES, AS MUTUALLY AGREED UPON, IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF PROGRAMS AGAINST THE

ILLEGAL PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS." REQUEST THAT EMBASSY
ALSO BE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE SPANISH TRANSLATION LOCALLY.
THOMPSON

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